

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently amended) A rights management method comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving an information signal at a first device over a ~~first~~ communication channel, the information signal comprising a content portion that has been and steganographically encoded with control information, the control information being intertwined with the content portion of the information signal in locations based on the available bandwidth of the ~~first~~ communications channel, the control information comprising an indication of whether at least part of the content portion may be copied, the control information further comprising an indication of a number of times the content portion may be rendered by a given device;

(b) steganographically decoding the received information signal to recover the control information;

(c) using the control information to determine whether the content portion may be rendered by the first device;

(d) rendering the content on the first device if permitted by the control information;

~~(e)-(e)~~ using the control information to determine whether at least part of the information signal may be copied to a second device;

(f) refreshing the control information using a refresh decoder and steganographically encoding the content signal with the refreshed control information, if copying to the second device is permitted; and

(g) ~~(d)~~ copying at least part of the information signal to the second device if permitted by the refreshed control information;

~~(e) using the refreshed control information to determine whether the content-portion may be rendered by the first device; and~~

~~(f) rendering the content on the first device if permitted by the control information.~~

39. (Canceled)

40. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 38, in which the control information further comprises an indication that the content may be copied only to appliances that are capable of enforcing the control information.

41. (Currently amended) A method as in claim 38, in which the control information further comprises an expiration date after which the content cannot be used.

42-53. (Canceled)

54. (New) A method as in claim 38, in which the control information further comprises an indication that the content may be rendered on an audio or video output.

55. (New) A method as in claim 38, in which the control information further comprises an indication of the number of times the information signal may be copied.

56. (New) A method as in claim 38, further comprising using the control information to govern at least one rendering of the content on the first device, including degrading the quality of the content.

57. (New) A method as in claim 38, further comprising rendering the content on the second device if permitted by the refreshed control information.

58. (New) A method as in claim 57, further comprising using the refreshed control information to govern at least one rendering of the content on the second device, including degrading the quality of the content.